



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:)
Richard A. Hynes) Before the Examiner
Serial No.: 10/099,797) Michael B. Priddy
Filed: March 15, 2002)
SPINAL FIXATION SYSTEM AND) Group Art Unit: 3732
RELATED METHODS) May 19, 2005

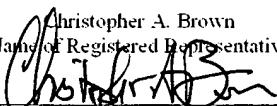
AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated February 22, 2005, please consider the following.

Forty claims had previously been pending with this application, of which seven were independent. With this amendment, 31 claims are pending, of which six are independent. No extensions of time are believed necessary, and no fees are believed to be due, for consideration of this paper. If any extensions of time or fees are deemed necessary, please grant such extensions or charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include issue fees.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on <u>19 May 2005</u> .	
Christopher A. Brown Name of Registered Representative  Signature	
<u>19 May 2005</u> Date of Signature	